

Quarterly List of WGBH-TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues - WGBH-TV (January-March 2011)

I. Education/Schools/Youth

Greater Boston, L 01/13/11, 7pm, 30 min.

One year ago, 15-year-old Phoebe Prince committed suicide following relentless bullying at school. Prince's suicide thrust the Massachusetts town of South Hadley into the national spotlight and sparked a national debate on bullying.

Digital Media: New Learners of the 21st Century, N 02/13/11, 11am, 60 min.

Targeted at parents, teachers and anyone concerned with education in America, this documentary takes viewers to the front lines of an education revolution. The program examines how mobile devices and digital media practices can empower young people to direct their own learning. Documenting five success stories both inside and out of the classroom, the program demonstrates how digital media, games, smart phones and the Internet are fundamentally transforming the way young people communicate, collaborate, participate and learn in the 21st century.

Greater Boston, L 02/02/11, 7pm, 30 min.

A new report published by the University of California at Los Angeles, found that today's college freshmen report more mental stress than they have in 25 years and are more likely to turn to alcohol to cope.

II. Housing/Urban Development

Greater Boston, L 01/06/11, 7pm, 30 min.

For years, a row of historic theaters sat vacant and crumbling on Boston's once vibrant Washington Street. Then, one-by-one, they've been renovated to their former grandeur - first the Opera House, then the Paramount and now the Modern Theatre.

Greater Boston, L 01/27/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Whole Foods Markets announced it will replace Jamaica Plain's Hi-Lo Supermarket. While the arrival of a Whole Foods promises to make the neighborhood more upscale, it also represents a major cultural shift for JP that not everyone is happy about.

Scientific American Frontiers, N 02/16/11, 10pm, 60 min.

"Cars That Think" - The fully automatic car may be down the road a ways, but cars that do your thinking for you are just around the corner - they watch out for hazards, they listen to you, they read your lips, they even know when you're distracted.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

Greater Boston, L 01/04/11, 7pm, 30 min.

An ex-con's murder of a Woburn Police officer a day after Christmas has put the state's Parole Board under the microscope. Now there are renewed calls for a crackdown on who gets paroled.

Greater Boston, N 01/25/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Three months after being convicted of bribery, a judge sentenced former Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner to three years in federal prison.

Greater Boston, N 01/27/11, 7pm, 30 min.

For more than two decades, James Rober has fought to keep his brother's killer behind bars. Now Rober has written a letter to Gov. Patrick asking for a seat on the Parole Board in an effort to bring a victim's perspective to the table.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

Greater Boston, L 01/24/11, 7pm, 30 min.

In 1998, a medical study purported to show a connection between the MMR vaccine and Autism, prompting a generation of parents to forgo vaccinations for their children. That study has since been discredited, but the mythical link between vaccines and autism has persisted, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Greater Boston, L 02/03/11, 7pm, 30 min.

The rise of incendiary media commentators like Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh have prompted a pair of Tufts University professors to take a careful look at the effects of negativity, outrageous speech, and incivility on the political landscape.

Greater Boston, L 02/08/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Labor unions were once a force to be reckoned with. But new poll numbers says public opinion has turned against unions with most Americans believing they cause more problems than they solve.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

Greater Boston, L 03/07/11, 7pm, 30 min.

As cities and towns across the Commonwealth struggle with skyrocketing health insurance costs, there's increasing political interest in cutting health benefits for public employees without going through collective bargaining. But today at the State House some of Massachusetts' biggest unions said: Not so fast.

Greater Boston, L 03/15/11, 7pm, 30 min.

As many college graduates are learning nowadays, finding work in a struggling economy can be frustrating. With 40 job interviews and no offers, Daniel Seddiqui turned that frustration into an adventure by exploring American careers, environments and cultures one job and one state at a time.

Greater Boston, L 03/30/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Where We Live heads south to New Bedford, where the city's historic downtown and waterfront are being revitalized as a mecca for tourists. But away from the trendy cafes, museums and art galleries, the former whaling capital's problems with jobs and education still run deep.

VI. Environment/Ecology

Greater Boston, L 02/08/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Emily is joined by some of SeaWorld's "animal ambassadors" (and one animal trainer) who are visiting Boston to teach children how they can make a difference in animal's lives through everyday actions.

Journey to Planet Earth, N 03/30/11, 10pm, 90 min.

"Plan B: Mobilizing To Save Civilization" - Shot on location around the world and featuring heads of state and some of the world's most original and influential thinkers, Brown's message is clear and unflinching -- either confront the realities of climate change or suffer the consequences of lost civilizations and failed states.

Greater Boston, L 03/28/11, 7pm, 30 min.

A sample of rainwater taken from a Boston neighborhood last week showed concentrations of radiation that is believed to have come from the damaged Japanese nuclear power plant. MIT nuclear science and engineering professor Ian Hutchinson joins Emily to put some commonly held concerns about radiation in perspective.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

Greater Boston, L 01/03/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Researchers at Mass. General Hospital are teaming up with pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson to develop a microchip that can detect a single cancer cell among billions of healthy ones.

Kickstart Your Health with Dr. Neal Barnard, N 03/05/11, 1:30pm, 90 min.

For years, Dr. Neal Barnard has been at the forefront of cutting-edge research on what it really takes to lose weight and restore the body to optimal health. Now, in this new 60-minute PBS special, Kickstart Your Health, Dr. Barnard unveils the secrets to reprogramming your body quickly and getting your body on track to better health fast.

Greater Boston, L 02/07/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Boston Bruins center Marc Savard has been sidelined for the rest of the season after suffering two concussions in under a year. Savard's first concussion prompted the NHL to toughen the rules on hits to the head, but critics say more must be done to protect players.

VII. Economy/ Business

Greater Boston, L 02/02/11, 7pm, 30 min.

Another week and another winter wallop that brings a touch of sleet and ice. Most folks are already fed up with the record snowfalls, but restaurants, both large and small, are really feeling the pinch.

Greater Boston, L 03/28/11, 7pm, 30 min.

This week WGBH debuts "Where We Live," a new series that looks at how the economy is impacting Massachusetts cities and towns. Tonight, Adam Reilly profiles Lynn which has gone from the shoe capital of the world to a hardscrabble community of 90,000 and is grappling with the problems of many old cities.

Greater Boston, L 02/23/11, 7pm, 30 min.

In a bad economy, every business needs to regroup and find a way up and out. Tonight, Greater Boston visits a used car dealership, which got a jump-start from the recession.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

Greater Boston, L 02/09/11 7pm, 30 min.

Under current law, ex-spouses in Massachusetts are required to pay alimony for life. But a new bill proposes changing the alimony system from one based on entitlement to one based on need.

Greater Boston, L 02/15/11 7pm, 30 min.

According to one local scholar, the Bible is anything but a rulebook when it comes to sex. In *Unprotected Texts*, author Jennifer Wright Knust explores what the Bible really says about sex and lust, marriage and longing - and finds answers as complex as love itself.

Greater Boston, L 02/16/11 7pm, 30 min.

Until now, expectant mothers had to wait until their second trimester to find out whether their child has Down Syndrome. But a new blood test would make it easier and less risky to find out. But it's also raising some thorny ethical questions.